





The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAMVOICE



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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet Approves ₹8,308 Crore Capital Region Ring Road Project in Odisha

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a 6-Lane Access-Controlled Capital Region Ring Road (CRRR), including the Bhubaneswar Bypass, in Odisha under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). The project, spanning 110.875 kilometers, will be developed at a capital cost of ₹8,307.74 crore. This ambitious infrastructure initiative is expected to be a game-changer for Odisha, particularly for the fast-growing capital region around Bhubaneswar, Khordha, and Puri. The construction of the ring road will significantly strengthen connectivity by decongesting urban traffic in the capital and easing the movement of goods and people to industrial hubs, ports, and tourist destinations in the state. It will also reduce travel time, enhance road safety, and improve logistics efficiency across the region. Built as a modern, access-controlled expressway, the project will cater to increasing vehicular traffic, provide seamless entry and exit points, and align with national standards of highway development. The ring road is also expected to support economic activities, particularly in sectors such as IT, education, healthcare, tourism, and manufacturing—areas where Bhubaneswar and its surroundings are rapidly emerging as growth engines. The use of the Hybrid Annuity Model will ensure efficient financial structuring by reducing upfront capital burden on the government while ensuring private sector participation and accountability in delivery. The model has already been successfully implemented in several other national highway projects, striking a balance between risk-sharing and long-term project sustainability. The CRRR project is aligned with the vision of creating world-class infrastructure under Bharatmala Pariyojana and is expected to generate significant employment during the construction phase. Once operational, it will boost trade, tourism, and ease of living, further positioning Odisha as a key destination for sustainable development and investment.

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Cabinet Approves Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi, Rajasthan with Investment of ₹1,507 Crore

The Union Cabinet has approved the development of a Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi in Rajasthan with an estimated investment of ₹1,507 crore. This strategic initiative is aimed at strengthening air connectivity in Rajasthan, enhancing regional accessibility, and supporting the growing economic and tourism potential of the Kota region. The Greenfield Airport project will be developed as per international standards with state-of-the-art passenger facilities, sustainable design features, and the capacity to handle both domestic and future international traffic. Once completed, the airport will serve as a vital infrastructure link for Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, and nearby districts, providing seamless connectivity to major cities across India. The project is also expected to generate significant employment opportunities during both construction and operational phases. In addition, it will facilitate the faster movement of goods, especially agricultural and horticultural products from the region, opening up new markets and enhancing farmers' incomes. Development of the Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi is in alignment with the Government's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to strengthen regional air connectivity and promote balanced growth across states. This project will stand as a symbol of Rajasthan's growing integration with national development priorities and is expected to play a pivotal role in boosting the region's socio-economic transformation.

[Read more](#)

Industry Developments

Overall

Govt plans sector-specific relief as US tariffs hit exporters

The central government is working on measures to support exporters hit by steep US tariffs. Instead of a broad loan guarantee scheme, the focus will be on sector-specific credit lines and risk cover, reported Economic Times. Exporters had demanded an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)-style programme that would provide collateral-free working capital and government-backed risk cover.

[Read more](#)

US tariff hike may trim India's GDP growth: CreditSights

India's economy faces pressure after the United States (US) announced it will double tariffs on Indian exports, Fitch-owned CreditSights warned. While direct export exposure to the US is modest, higher trade barriers could hurt sectors where the US is a key market and indirectly slow bank credit growth.

[Read more](#)

India ramps up critical mineral exploration

India is intensifying its drive for self-sufficiency in critical minerals, with exploration underway at over 1,200 sites nationwide, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Essential resources like lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements and graphite, crucial for everything from electronic chips and appliances to electric vehicles and solar panels, are in soaring demand as countries advance their clean energy transitions.

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Agri & Food processing

Underperforming farm districts to be brought at par with other farming regions: PM Modi

Nearly 100 underperforming agricultural districts will be brought at par with other farming regions, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This would be done through the implementation of the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana.

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Tripura initiates various schemes to support agricultural production

The Tripura government has initiated various schemes to support agricultural production and ensure smooth market access. The aim is to double farmers' income. As part of this effort, a government-backed paddy procurement programme was launched at Betaga Bazaar under the leadership of the sub-divisional magistrate on 17 August 2025.

[Read more](#)

Odisha govt streamlines process of paddy procurement for farmers

The Odisha government has streamlined the registration process for farmers to procure paddy in the 2025-26 kharif marketing season (KMS). As part of it, the state government has allowed them to submit self-declaration form in place of legal heir certificate.

[Read more](#)

Aviation

5,706 flights cancelled due to regulatory & geopolitical issues this year till 30 June

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on 18 August 2025, the minister of state (MoS) for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol provided a data that showed that as many as 5,706 flights were cancelled due to regulatory and geopolitical issues this year till 30 June 2025.

[Read more](#)

IndianOil's Panipat refinery to use cooking oil to produce sustainable aviation fuel

IndianOil's chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney said that a refinery of IndianOil has won a certification to use cooking oil, which is often discarded after being used for frying at home or in restaurants, to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

[Read more](#)

GMR to develop cargo city spread over 50.5 acres of land at Delhi airport

GMR Airports will be developing a cargo city spread over 50.5 acres of land at the Delhi airport. It has emerged as the selected bidder to finance, design, develop, construct, operate, manage and maintain the cargo city at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi (project) for an initial period of up to year 2036, which may further be extended by 30 additional years.

[Read more](#)

Automobiles and Ancillaries

Government considering GST cut on small cars

The government is considering a major cut in GST on small cars, potentially reducing the tax from 28 per cent to 18 per cent as part of a broader effort to simplify the country's tax structure and stimulate demand in the auto sector. This move is expected to make entry-level cars more affordable, encouraging sales in a segment that has seen sluggish growth.

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Maruti Suzuki chairman lauds government's move to revamp GST

Maruti Suzuki's chairman, R.C. Bhargava, has endorsed the proposed revamp of India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, calling it a major step toward improving the country's industrial competitiveness. The reform aims to streamline the current tax structure by reducing the number of slabs and eliminating the cess on certain goods, including small cars.

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IOC, Air India ink MoU for supply of sustainable aviation fuel

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has inked a landmark agreement to supply sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to Air India. This represents a significant step towards a greener and cleaner aviation in India. IOC's chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney said that the company plans to begin production of SAF from used cooking oil starting December this year at its Panipat refinery.

[Read more](#)

Banking and Financial Services

Banks scaling up on UPI credit line

Credit lines on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) are likely to gain traction as banks such as ICICI Bank and Karnataka Bank prepare to disburse small-value loans through UPI apps. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) had enabled pre-sanctioned credit lines on UPI in September 2023, but most lenders delayed adoption due to technical challenges and regulatory clarifications.

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SBI increases home loan rates by 25 bps

State Bank of India (SBI) has raised home loan rates by 25 basis points (bps) for new borrowers, in spite of the Reserve Bank of India's repo rate cut to 5.5 per cent. The bank has increased the upper band of interest rates, revising the range from 7.50-8.45 per cent to 7.50-8.70 per cent.

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PSBs hike home loan spread to protect margins

Public sector banks (PSBs) are raising spread on home loans to offset margin pressures. Margins are under pressure as repo rate-linked loans get repriced immediately, while deposit costs adjust with a lag.

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Energy & Natural Resources

IOCL plans SAF production by December 2025

Indian Oil Corporation will start sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production in December 2025, according to chairman A. S. Sahney. The SAF production unit is located at the company's Panipat refinery in Haryana. It will have an annual capacity of 35,000 tonnes and use used cooking oil (UCO) as feedstock.

[Read more](#)

CIL to move forward with its coal transportation & evacuation infrastructure plan

Coal India (CIL) is moving forward with its infrastructure development plans, committing Rs.56.2 billion to coal transportation and evacuation projects, according to media reports. This is in spite of witnessing subdued coal demand in the June 2025 quarter.

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PM inaugurates 2 NH projects connecting Delhi and Haryana

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated two national highway (NH) projects, enhancing road connectivity between Delhi and Haryana. These include Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road (UER)-II. The cost of these projects has been pegged at Rs.110 billion.

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EU sanctions force Nayara to talk to govt for stability

Nayara Energy announced that it is engaging in discussions with government authorities and partners to ensure smooth functioning at its 20 million tonne per annum refinery and secure fuel supplies. The private refiner, sanctioned by the EU last month, distributes about 70 per cent of its refined fuels through more than 6,600 retail outlets while exporting the remainder.

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Healthcare

Uttar Pradesh CM inaugurates Regency Hospital in Gorakhpur

CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the multi-super-speciality Regency Hospital in Gorakhpur. The 250-bedded facility will serve patients from eastern Uttar Pradesh, north-west Bihar and Nepal. Equipped with 80 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and eight modular operation theatres, the hospital offers comprehensive services across all major specialties.

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Uttarakhand CM distributes appointment letters to 220 medical officers

Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhami recently distributed appointment letters to approximately 220 medical officers. He said that this will improve immediate medical services and staff efficiency. The state government is focused on expanding health services and strengthening public health infrastructure.

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Jharkhand's Ramgarh to soon have 100,000 volunteers for emergency medical aid

Jharkhand's Ramgarh district will soon have an army of 100,000 volunteers named 'Aapda Mitra' for emergency medical aid. They are being trained to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid under a first-of-its-kind initiative in India. Initially, around 3,329 certified master trainers were trained by experts and paramedics.

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Infrastructure

PM inaugurates 2 NH projects worth Rs.110 bln connecting Delhi and Haryana

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated two national highway (NH) projects, enhancing road connectivity between Delhi and Haryana. These include Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road (UER)-II. The cost of these projects has been pegged at Rs.110 billion. The projects are aimed at reducing congestion in the national capital.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet approves 6-lane access-controlled Bhubaneswar Bypass in Odisha under HAM

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the six-lane access-controlled Bhubaneswar Bypass in Odisha under the hybrid annuity mode (HAM). The project involves a total capital cost of Rs.83.07 billion, which includes the land acquisition cost of Rs.10.29 billion and the civil cost of Rs.46.86 billion. It is a 110.87 km long capital region ring road.

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About 38 trains across Tamil Nadu to have additional stoppages

About 38 trains in Tamil Nadu will have additional stoppages starting 18 August 2025, announced L Murugan, Union minister. Additional stoppages have been introduced for several trains following public demand for trains to stop at additional railway stations across the state.

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IT & ITES

IT clients renew contracts at 30-50% discount: Coforge CEO

Clients of IT companies are renewing their contracts at a discount of 30-50 per cent as the use of artificial intelligence (AI) increases, the chief executive officer of Coforge, Sudhir Singh said. However, transformational tech spending is on the rise.

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TCS opens new office in Mexico

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has opened an artificial intelligence (AI)-led operations centre in Mexico City. This centre aligns with the company's commitment to accelerate innovation in Mexico and Latin America. This new office is TCS's eighth operational centre in Mexico. The centre will be staffed with AI specialists and software engineers with expertise in emerging enterprise technologies.

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Global tech spending to fall amid tariffs

Global technology spending is unlikely to cross the USD 6 trillion mark due to tariffs and trade uncertainties impacting Indian IT business growth in 2025, as per analysts. The budget for IT spending is expected to grow by seven per cent to USD 4.9-5.7 trillion. Additionally, the impact on Indian IT companies could be sharper if the proposed 50 per cent tariff comes into effect once the current pause ends.

[Read more](#)

Pharmaceuticals

Relonchem secures UK MHRA nod for Metformin tablets

Marksans Pharma's United Kingdom (UK) subsidiary, Relonchem, secured marketing authorisation from the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for three strengths of Metformin Hydrochloride prolonged-release tablets. The tablets are available in 500 mg, 750 mg and 1000 mg strengths.

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Glenmark, Alembic and Sun recall substandard drugs in US

Glenmark, Alembic Pharmaceuticals and Sun Pharmaceuticals have initiated class II recalls of several drugs in the United States (US) market following quality concerns flagged by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). Glenmark is withdrawing Carvedilol and Theophylline tablets over nitrosamine impurities and failed dissolution tests.

[Read more](#)

Alembic Pharma secures USFDA approval for generic Tretinoin cream

Alembic Pharmaceuticals secured final approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market its generic Tretinoin cream USP in the US. The cream is indicated for the treatment of acne vulgaris. It is a therapeutic equivalent of Bausch Health's Retin-A cream.

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Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

CM inaugurates Ratan Tata Innovation Hub in Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) in Amaravati today. Spanning approximately 50,000 square feet, the hub has been designed to serve as a startup centre tailored to meet global demands.

[Read more](#)

Swarna Naravaripalli Project promotes sustainable energy in 3 villages of Andhra Pradesh

The Swarna Naravaripalli Project has promoted sustainable energy in Naravaripalli, A Rangampet and Ramireddipalli villages of the Chandragiri Assembly constituency in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The pilot project has transformed houses in these three remote villages into net zero energy units, setting a groundbreaking model for sustainable rural development in the country.

[Read more](#)

Andhra Pradesh govt to construct world-standard international athletics stadium at Tirupati

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to construct a world-standard international athletics stadium at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati. In this first-of-its-kind move, a 400-metre eight-lane synthetic athletics track will be laid.

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Gujarat

Gujarat CM announces several new development-centric initiatives

CM Bhupendra Patel announced several new development-centric initiatives. These include the launch of Regional Vibrant Summits aimed at promoting industrial growth in towns and villages across the state. Additionally, 100 town-planning schemes and geographic information system (GIS)-based development plans are on the cards to ensure systematic urban development.

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Centre approves establishment of Kamdhenu Veterinary College

The Centre has approved the establishment of the Kamdhenu Veterinary College under the Kamdhenu University at Himmatnagar. With this, the state will have five veterinary colleges. The institution will offer 80 seats in the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.VSc) and Animal Husbandry programmes.

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State approves applications from 22 enterprises

The Gujarat government approved applications from 22 major enterprises involving investments of Rs.14.7 billion under the Incentive to Industries Scheme. As part of the scheme, the approved units are eligible to get certain assistance from the state government.

[Read more](#)

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh govt to build new bridge between Shimla and Mandi

The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to build a new double-lane bridge to ensure connectivity between Shimla and Mandi. Directions have been issued to the state public works department to identify a suitable site for the bridge from Gharat Nala to Ghanghar at Sunni. Once the site is identified, an estimate for the construction of the double-lane bridge will be prepared.

[Read more](#)

Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh tops PMMVY enrollment campaign

Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur has emerged as a frontrunner in the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) enrollment campaign. The district has secured top position in the state and an impressive 26th rank nation-wide. The PMMVY aims to improve the nutrition and health of pregnant and lactating women. The month-long special beneficiary registration drive, which began on 15 July 2025, witnessed Bilaspur achieving an extraordinary 249 per cent enrollment rate.

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HP govt launches Rs.30 billion disaster mitigation project

The Himachal Pradesh government has announced an additional Rs.1 billion for natural disaster-affected families in the state. Besides this, a Rs.30 billion disaster mitigation project has been unveiled. Furthermore, the Anti-Chitta Volunteer Scheme has been introduced. Under this, trained volunteers will act as a link between the public and police.

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Karnataka

Karnataka Assembly passes various Bills

On 19 August 2025, the Karnataka Assembly passed various Bills. This includes the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill which will allow municipal commissioners to regularise unlawful buildings by levying a penalty. The Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, on the other hand, proposes a welfare fee of one to five per cent of the payout to the worker during each transaction, for different categories of aggregators or platforms.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka LC passes Land Reforms and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill

The Karnataka Legislative Council (LC) passed the Karnataka Land Reforms and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill. The legislation allows the conversion of agricultural land for setting up micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) units up to 0.8 hectares. There is no need to apply for land conversion for the establishment of such units, as the Bill has removed the conversion clause.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka govt to remove ineligible families from BPL list

The Karnataka government has decided to commence the exercise of removing ineligible families having below poverty line (BPL) cards soon after the end of the monsoon session of the state Assembly. Around 1.5 million families had been identified to be ineligible to receive BPL cards in the past and action would be initiated to delete these families from the BPL list.

[Read more](#)

Kerala

Kerala minister recommends implementing reservation for transgenders in jobs

The Kerala higher education department has recommended implementing reservation for transgender individuals in government jobs. State higher education minister informed that the public service commission (PSC) has been requested to consider this demand.

[Read more](#)

Kerala HC orders revival of KMTA by 1 November

The Kerala High Court (HC) has issued an order for the revival of the Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority (KMTA) by 1 November 2025. This will integrate bus, metro & ferry systems, augment last-mile connectivity and help rationalise the fare in public transport vehicles apart from readying a parking policy.

[Read more](#)

Kerala govt issues alert against PAM in Kozhikode

The Kerala health department has issued an alert against primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) in Kozhikode. This has come in view of the reporting of three cases of the infection and a death in recent days. Though the mortality of the this rare brain infection was very high, it does not transmit from person to person.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra

Maharashtra govt signs 10 MoUs worth Rs.428.9 bln

The Maharashtra government has signed 10 MoUs to bring a total investment of Rs.428.9 billion to the state. Some of them include Rs.109 billion investment for solar panel manufacturing, Rs.25 billion for data centers, Rs.43 billion for steel industry and Rs.47 billion for renewable energy.

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Maharashtra Cabinet takes key decisions

The Maharashtra Cabinet took a slew of decisions on 19 August 2025. These include the establishment of a new ring road and development of a new urban township in Nagpur. Besides this, nod was given for the construction of additional railway lines to strengthen the Pune-Lonavala corridor. Furthermore, the state Cabinet approved a complete stamp duty waiver for a proposed cancer hospital by Tata Memorial Centre in Raigad.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt to revive hyperloop project

The Maharashtra government has decided to revive the hyperloop project. It would be utilised this time to move cargo from JNPT to Vadhavan. A high-speed mobility system will be built based on linear induction motors (LIM) at both JNPT and Vadhavan port.

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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu govt to set up Seaweed Common Facility Centre at Panankulam

The Tamil Nadu government has decided to set up a Seaweed Common Facility Centre at Panankulam in Pudukottai district. This has come in an effort to promote entrepreneurship among fisherfolk and enhance their livelihood. The centre is being established under the Farm Sector Promotion Fund of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

[Read more](#)

Tamil Nadu govt to start preparatory work on CMRL's 21.7-km corridor

The Tamil Nadu government has accorded administrative sanction for commencing the preparatory work on Chennai Metro Rail's 21.7-km Koyambedu-Avadi-Pattabiram corridor. Following this, the CMRL can take up work pertaining to land acquisition, shifting of utilities and other aspects.

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Tamil Nadu CM urges Centre to release Rs.45 bln under RIDF, Rs.3.5 bln under FIDF

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin urged Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to release Rs.45 billion to the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the current financial year. He also sought Rs.3.5 billion under the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for the expansion of the Colachel fishing harbour.

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Telangana

Union govt approves supply of 50,000 tonnes of urea to Telangana

The Union chemicals & fertilisers ministry has approved the supply of 50,000 tonnes of urea to Telangana this week. It is expected to help the state overcome the urea shortage. The move has come after the issue of urea shortage was raised in the Parliament.

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Telangana govt to make Hyderabad premier hub for film production

The Telangana government has decided to develop Hyderabad into a premier hub for film production in the country. The state government will provide all necessary support to promote the film industry in the city, said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

[Read more](#)

Telangana govt to develop Bharat Future City

The Telangana government has decided to develop the Bharat Future City across a 765 square km urban-industrial hub in south Hyderabad. It will be developed under the supervision of the Future City Development Authority (FCDA). The aim is to create a model for sustainable and inclusive urbanisation. The zones are designed to include artificial intelligence, life sciences, electronics manufacturing, electric vehicles, energy storage, tourism, entertainment, film production, health and knowledge infrastructure.

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Uttar Pradesh

UP govt sanctions Rs.450 mln for development of temples in Gorakhpur

The Uttar Pradesh government has sanctioned Rs.450 million for projects aimed at the development of ancient temples in rural areas of Gorakhpur. The city is home to several prominent religious sites, including Gorakhnath Temple, Shri Digambar Jain Temple, Jatashankar Gurudwara, Ramkrishna Dev Temple, Ancient Kalika Sthan, Chitrugupta Temple, Sant Kabir Ashram and Shri Ram Janaki Temple.

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UP govt to set up new forensic science laboratories in 6 districts

The Uttar Pradesh government is establishing new forensic science laboratories in six districts. These include Ayodhya, Banda, Basti, Saharanpur, Mirzapur and Azamgarh. The expansion of forensic science infrastructure is not only strengthening the state's law enforcement mechanisms but also creating opportunities for youth in specialised fields like cyber forensics, robotics and artificial intelligence.

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UP's first green hydrogen production facility launched in Gorakhpur

Uttar Pradesh's first green hydrogen production facility has been launched in Gorakhpur. Developed by Torrent Power and Torrent Gas, the plant is designed to produce green hydrogen for blending with compressed and piped natural gas supplies. The project is slated to produce 72 tonnes of green hydrogen per year. It is backed by the state's Green Hydrogen Policy.

[Read more](#)

Union Territories

J&K admin to digitise updation of RRs and streamline conduct of DPCs

The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) administration is set to digitise the updation of recruitment rules (RRs) and streamline the conduct of departmental promotion committees (DPCs) across all government departments. This has come as delays in promotions & recruitment procedures adversely affect employee morale and departmental performance.

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MHA urged to release additional grant of Rs.1.2 bln for Chandigarh Municipal Corporation

The Chandigarh administration sought an additional grant of over Rs.1.2 billion from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The move aims to bail out the cash-strapped Chandigarh Municipal Corporation. According to Hindustan Times, development works in the union territory (UT) have been stalled since May 2024 due to the financial crisis.

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Centre to implement Land Stack project in Chandigarh on pilot basis

The Centre has selected Chandigarh, among two locations in the country, to implement the Land Stack project on a pilot basis. The project aims to build a comprehensive, transparent and technology-driven land records management system, reported The Times of India. It will serve as an integrated land information system where a unified database will contain all details related to a particular piece of land.

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International Developments

India and Eurasian Economic Union sign terms of reference to launch FTA negotiations

India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia, have signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to begin Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. The ToR was signed by Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Government of India, and Mr. Mikhail Cherekaev, Deputy Director of the Trade Policy Department at the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC). This framework sets the stage for formal negotiations and aims to unlock unutilized trade opportunities, boost investment flows, and build a stronger, long-term India-EAEU economic partnership.

[Read more](#)

10th meeting of AITIGA joint committee to review ASEAN-India Trade in goods agreement

India recently hosted the 10th Meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee along with related sessions. The event was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and the Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia. Delegates from all ten ASEAN Member States - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam - participated. Discussions centred on the ongoing review of AITIGA, aiming to strengthen effectiveness, improve accessibility, and enhance overall trade facilitation mechanisms.

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4th meeting of India-Singapore Joint Working Group on Trade & Investment (JWGTI) held

India hosted the 4th Meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Working Group on Trade & Investment (JWGTI). The discussions emphasized strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations, identifying priority sectors for closer cooperation, enhancing logistics and supply chain efficiency, simplifying regulatory frameworks, and promoting smoother cross-border trade. The meeting also assessed ongoing cooperation in areas like the semiconductor industry and trade digitalisation, while exploring new opportunities for collaboration in skills development, capacity building, and other emerging sectors to ensure mutual growth and shared benefits.

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